IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A risk assessment system for evaluating and determining levels of risk to a first individual for at least one social risk category, the first individual being a child, the system comprising:

a computer;

a memory accessible by the computer;

a first file stored in the memory and including data defining weighted profile characteristics of ~~a~~ the first individual;

an interface component that allows the first individual ~~and~~ or a set of second individuals associated with the first individual to access the first file and set at least one of the profile characteristics; and

a risk assessment application defining the at least one social risk category, the at least one social risk category being child abuse or child neglect, the risk assessment application being in the computer for computing and storing in the computer memory a risk score in the at least one category for the first individual using input based on the profile characteristics.

2. **(Original)** The system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the profile characteristics has a weight based on a response to a query stored in the computer memory and accessed by one of the first individual and one of the set of second individuals.

3. **(Original)** The system according to claim 1, wherein the system is network based, and the computer is a network server computer.

4. **(Original)** The system according to claim 1, wherein the risk assessment application has an ability to learn from patterns within a set of measured input variables and thereby adjust the risk assessment application based on the patterns of the set of measured input variables.

5. **(Original)** The system according to claim 1, wherein the risk assessment application has an ability to adapt to changes by training the risk assessment application with data based on a set of known risk scores and respective sets of known input variables corresponding to the known risk scores.

6. **(Original)** The system according to claim 1, wherein the interface component comprises a telephonic connection between the first individual or the set of second individuals and the system computer.

7. **(Original)** The system according to claim 6, wherein the telephonic connection comprises a hot line operator.

8. **(Original)** The system according to claim 6, wherein the telephonic connection comprises a second computer and a modem.

9. **(Original)** The system according to claim 6, wherein the telephonic connection comprises a wireless device for accessing the Internet.

10. **(Original)** The system according to claim 3, wherein the first individual has a first privileged level of server access and the each of the set of second individuals has a respective privileged level of access to the first file, each respective level of access being based on a relationship between respective ones of the second set of individuals and the first individual.

11. **(Original)** The system according to claim 3, wherein the system memory includes one or more query files, and wherein a software application in the server generates query sets from the one or more query files for at least one of the first individual and the set of second individuals, and responses to the query sets are stored in the computer memory.

12. **(Original)** The system according to claim 11, wherein the profile characteristics correspond to query responses provided by the at least one of the first individual and the set of second individuals.

13. **(Original)** The system according to claim 10, wherein a subset of the set of second individuals level of access includes access to the composite risk score in the memory.

14. **(Original)** The system according to claim 1, wherein the computer includes software that compares the computed risk score with a predetermined value and generates a marker in the first file when the composite risk score meets or exceeds the predetermined value.

15. **(Original)** The system according to claim 14, wherein the marker is accessible by at least one of the set of second individuals.

16. **(Currently Amended)** A method of determining and monitoring ~~a type of~~ a level of risk to a first individual for at least one social risk category, the first individual being a child, the method comprising:

defining the at least one social risk category of the first individual to be monitored, the at least one social risk category being child abuse or child neglect;

creating and storing in a memory accessible by a computer a first file including data defining profile characteristics of ~~a~~ the first individual;

storing in the memory a risk assessment application for computing a composite risk score indicative of ~~a~~ the level of ~~the type~~ risk to the first individual for the at least one social risk category;

computing the composite risk score by providing input based on the profile characteristics of the first file to the risk assessment application;

storing the composite risk score in the computer memory;

generating at least one first query set in the computer memory, wherein the query set corresponds to the at least one social risk ~~type~~ category;

allowing the first individual or a second set of individuals associated with the first individual to access at least one question of the at least one first query set in the computer memory; and

allowing transmission of information corresponding to the profile characteristics, and based on responses to the at least one question of the at least one first query set from the first

individual or second set of individuals associated with the first individual, to the computer and storing the information in the first file.

17. **(Original)** The method of claim 16, further comprising:

generating an alarm signal when the composite risk score exceeds a predetermined value or falls within a predetermined range of values.

18. **(Original)** The method of claim 17, further comprising:

storing data corresponding to the alarm signal in the computer memory and allowing at least one individual of the second set of individuals to access the data corresponding to the marker.

19. **(Original)** The method of claim 17, further comprising:

generating and storing in the computer memory at least one second query set, wherein the selection of at least one question for the second query set is based on changes in the first individual's profile characteristics causing said alarm signal.

20. **(Original)** The method of claim 16, wherein the information is transmitted within a computer network, and the computer is a server in the network.

21. **(Original)** The method of claim 19, further comprising:

storing on the server memory a software application allowing communication between the first individual and at least one individual of the second set of individuals, or between individuals of the second set of individuals.

22. **(Original)** The method of claim 19, further comprising:

providing the first individual or at least one individual of the second set of individuals with network resources based on a response to at least one question of the query set.

23. **(Original)** The method of claim 16, wherein the risk assessment application comprises a neural network and the method further comprises training the risk assessment application.

24. **(Original)** The method of claim 23, wherein the training of the risk assessment application is performed using a backpropagation technique.

25. **(Original)** The method of claim 16, wherein the risk assessment application comprises a neural network and the method further comprises training the risk assessment application using an input set of profile characteristics from a plurality of first individuals.

26. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 16, wherein the risk assessment application comprises a neural network and the method further comprises training the risk assessment application using at least one neural network and at least one ~~live~~ expert.

27. (**New**) A child welfare risk assessment system for evaluating and determining a level of risk to a child in at least one social risk category, the risk assessment system comprising:

a computer;

a memory accessible by the computer;

a first file stored in the memory including periodic social environmental data defining an input variable set of the child, the social environmental data defining at least one interpersonal relationship of the child;

an interface component so as permit access to the first file and the input variable set; and

a risk assessment application in the computer for computing and storing in the computer memory a child welfare risk score for the child, the risk assessment application defining the at least one social risk category as being child abuse or child neglect, the application further defining a function operable upon the input variable set so as to generate the child welfare risk score indicative of the level of risk to the child for the at least one social risk category.

28. (**New**) The child welfare assessment system of claim 27, wherein the risk assessment application is a fuzzy logic system having:

a rule base defining the function to relate the input variable set to a set of linguistic variables;

a dynamic working memory to validate the rule base; and

an inference engine to combine the set of linguistic variables to generate the child welfare risk score.

29. **(New)** The child welfare assessment system of claim 27, wherein the risk assessment application is an artificial neural network system.

30. **(New)** The child welfare assessment system of claim 27, wherein the risk assessment application is a neuro-fuzzy logic system.

31. **(New)** The child welfare assessment system of claim 27, wherein the input variable set characterizes the economic support, history of abuse and surrounding living conditions of the child.